

## Partner in Progress Award Recipients

October 23rd, 2008

**Senator Bob Meeks** – Senator Meeks represented Northeast Indiana in the State Senate for 20 years and had previously served as a State Trooper. Senator Meeks was given a Partner in Progress award upon retiring from the Senate in 2008.

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Reginald and Tracey Jones** – Mr. and Mrs. Jones are successful business owners and operators of several McDonald's restaurants in central Indiana. They were both given a Partner in Progress award for their support of the McMiracle on East 38<sup>th</sup> Street. Each year they give food, bikes, and helmets to families in need during the holidays. In 2007, they helped 7,200 families.

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Center for Leadership Development** – The Center for Leadership Development (CLD) provides thousands of students needed resources to help them achieve a college education. CLD was given a Partner in Progress award at the opening ceremonies of a new facility, where the staff was recognized for encouraging youth to become leaders.

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Shane McCoy** – Mr. McCoy was instrumental in persuading Honda to expand in Indiana and create jobs for Hoosiers. He was given a Partner in Progress at his farewell celebration.

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Franklin College** – Franklin College in Johnson County has a long, rich history of educating Hoosiers and non-Hoosiers alike. Franklin College was given a Partner in Progress award on the college's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Senator Katie Wolf** – Senator Wolf was the first woman to seek and be elected as a State Representative from District 25 and as a State Senator from District 7. Senator Wolf was given a Partner in Progress award at the Women Giving Together Luncheon to recognize her dedicated service to the community and the State of Indiana.

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Robert Juncker** – Mr. Juncker dedicated his life to agriculture education. He worked for the Department of Education for 30 years and served in several roles with Indiana Future Farmers of America (FFA). Mr. Juncker was given a Partner in Progress award during his retirement from FFA at the State FFA Convention.

August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Faith Killian Fassnacht** – Miss. Killian Fassnacht, an 11 year-old, from Lafayette was given a Partner in Progress award for Operation Teddy Bear and Bear Hugs to the Troops. Since August 2007, she has collected teddy bears and letters to US troops in Iraq. The soldiers give the bears to children, including those in orphanages.

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Dr. Clint Rusk** – Dr. Rusk was given a Partner in Progress award after his retirement. Dr. Rusk was awarded for his service to Indiana through animal agriculture and education. For 12 years he served as chairman of the State Agriculture Judging Committee. He also coordinated annual agricultural judging contests as well as developed youth training seminars related to animal projects.

August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Lt. Governor Skillman recognized 11 individuals by presenting Partner in Progress awards to long-serving State Fair volunteers and retiring State Fair board members at the Indiana State Fair.

**Nila Armstrong** – Ms. Armstrong was given a Partner in Progress award for her more than 30 years as volunteer in the State Fair's Cattle Department.

**Bob Cain** – Mr. Cain was given a Partner in Progress award for his many years of volunteer service at the State Fair in the Building and Grounds Department. He is responsible for keeping the grounds clean and aspects of the State Fair good working condition.

**Barbara Crowell** – Ms. Crowell was given a Partner in Progress award for her many years of volunteer service at the State Fair. She is responsible for the 4-H desk.

**Jeff Henson** – Mr. Henson was given a Partner in Progress award for his many years of volunteer service at the Harness Racing Program as well as the gates to the State Fair.

**Dave Kinder** – Mr. Kinder was given a Partner in Progress award for his many years of volunteer service as the organizer for the entire shuttle bus program at the State Fair.

**Diana Kuhn** – Ms. Kuhn was given a Partner in Progress award for her service to the State Fair as a State Fair board member. Ms. Kuhn retired from the board in 2009.

**Mark Merkel** – Mr. Merkel was given a Partner in Progress award for his service to the State Fair as State Fair board member president. Mr. Merkel retired from the board in 2009.

**Kathy Rucker** – Ms. Rucker was given a Partner in Progress award for her volunteer service as the manager of the State Fair dance stage for 15 years.

**Alan Washburn** – Mr. Washburn was given a Partner in Progress award for his volunteer service to the State Fair as the official voice of the State Fair for the past 25 years.

**Mauri Williamson** - Mr. Williamson was given a Partner in Progress award for his volunteer service to the State Fair as the founder and creator of Pioneer Village.

September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Dr. Brian Bowen** – Dr. Bowen was given a Partner in Progress award for his service to Indiana through the Center for Coal Technology Research and Purdue University. Dr. Bowen is credited for preparing and presenting 14 scholarly papers that helped educate Hoosiers and people across the globe about energy.